



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
9500 Thornton Avenue
Newark, California 94560**

**Testimony
before
MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
March 18, 2008**

1. My name is John Bradley. I am here on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex.
2. The Service manages the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, the Common Murre Restoration Project at Devil's Slide Rock, and has public trust responsibility for migratory birds.
3. Despite the many positive strides made over the last several decades to restore island resources, the populations of certain species are still declining or depleted for various reasons, and we are constantly challenged to find better ways to protect this unique island system.
4. The Services strongly supports the tool of special closure to help protect sensitive wildlife resources. In the matter of sea bird and pinniped protection, the Refuge would generally prefer 1,000-ft. buffers around habitat that is used by these species. Data indicate that human activities more than 1,000 ft. distant do not have significant impacts.
5. For the areas we are directly responsible for managing:
 - At the Farallon Islands, the Service supports continuing the noise abatement measures.
 - At the South Farallon Islands we support expanding the area and season of the current closures of 300 ft. to protect wildlife while still addressing quality wildlife viewing, anchoring, and other safety concerns. We support the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary suggestion to expand the current 300-ft. closure to include the entire island complex except for the areas off the North and East Landings and that the closure be year round.
 - At the more remote and exposed North Farallon Islands, we strongly support a closure distance of 1,000 ft. to protect Steller sea lions and seabirds. The threatened sea lions use three of the four islets in this group and all the islets are used by seabirds. We are aware of navigational concerns in the sea lane between North Farallon and the more southerly islands in the group, but believe that safe passage can be managed.

- At Devil's Slide Rock, we urge not only the 1000-ft. special closure around the Rock but also along the adjacent mainland.
6. For land areas we do not directly manage, but have trust resource responsibilities, we strongly support the additional special closures that have been discussed that would protect other important seabird colonies up and down the north central coast from human disturbance.